

Attorney Docket No. B0052-US01
Amdt. Dated 12/18/2003
Reply to 1st Office Action of 09/22/2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (previously presented) A method for processing a blood concentrate product for separating a medicinally valuable blood component comprising: connecting at least one product bag containing a blood concentrate product to be processed with a tube system having a plurality of tubes connected to a multi-way connector and connecting also a solution bag containing a diluting solution via a solution tube to the tube system in communication with the multi-way connector, suspending the at least one product bag containing the blood concentrate product to be processed in a cassette, processing the blood concentrate product in the at least one product bag by oscillating the cassette forwards and backwards in an incomplete pendulum swing, adding the diluting solution from the solution bag through the tube system in an adapted portion to each of the at least one product bags, keeping the cassette in motion until all blood concentrate products are dissolved in the added diluting solution, and transferring the contents of all of the at least one product bags in the cassette to a ring bag for a subsequent centrifugation processing step.
2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 whereby the amount of diluting solution added to the at least one product bag may be controlled by a clamp valve through which the solution tube is adapted to be passed and which clamp valve can also be ~~utilised~~ utilized when processing is ~~finalised~~ finalized to weld the solution tube.
3. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 whereby the pendulum movement of the cassette is held within approximately a quarter revolution in either the forward or backward direction.
4. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 whereby the step of transferring to the ring bag the contents of all of the at least one product bags containing a blood concentrate product occurs after the steps of adding and processing with the diluting solution.

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5. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 in which the step of adding the diluting solution and the step of transferring the dissolved concentrate products takes place in several steps with mixing as the middle step.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A device in accordance with ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 10 in which the centrifuge machine further has attached thereto an instrument for holding a bag containing a diluting solution.

8. (currently amended) A device in accordance with ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 10 whereby the pendulum movement of the cassette is maintained within the interval of approximately a quarter revolution forward and backward.

9. (currently amended) A bag set for processing blood concentrate products comprising a ring bag, a processed component bag connected to the ring bag, a multi-way connector connected to the ring bag, one or more connecting tubes that are adapted to be individually connected to one or more discrete sources of blood concentrate products, said one or more connecting tubes also being connected to a the multi-way connector and a diluting solution tube via connected to the multi-way connector, the diluting solution tube being adapted to be connected to a discrete source of diluting solution, whereby said multi-way connector selectively connecting the one or more connecting tubes and the diluting solution tube or the one or more connecting tubes and the ring bag are connected to the to the multi-way connector where they whereby the source of diluting solution can be connected with each other discrete source of blood products placing diluting solution in fluid communication with said blood products, and whereby each discrete source of blood products can be connected with the ring bag, emptying said blood products and diluting solution from said discrete sources of blood concentrate products into said ring bag, while the processed component bag is separately connected to the ring bag.

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10. (currently amended) A device for processing a blood concentrate product ~~in accordance with Claim 6~~ comprising a centrifuge machine to which is connected a cassette in which a plurality of product bags containing blood concentrate products to be processed may be suspended and whereby the cassette can be put in motion in a forward and backward pendulum movement in an incomplete revolution about the axis and further having an outer lid which has a motor disposed therein which operates in an incomplete revolution in one direction immediately followed by a corresponding incomplete return revolution in the other direction, said motor being operably connected to the cassette such that when the outer lid of the centrifuge is in an open position, a plurality of product bags can be suspended in the cassette, so that when the motor is activated the product bags are exposed to a mechanical mixing of the blood concentrate products disposed therein.

11. (previously presented) A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 10, which further comprises a clamp valve through which a diluting solution tube may be passed whereby the diluting solution tube is connected between a diluting solution bag and the plurality of blood product bags, and whereby an amount of diluting solution may be added to the plurality of product bags, this amount of diluting solution being controlled by the clamp valve.

12. (currently amended) A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 11, whereby the clamp valve can also be ~~utilised~~ utilized when processing is ~~finalised~~ finalized to weld the diluting solution tube.

13. (previously presented) A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 11, which further comprises a support which has a controllable clamp and a welding station which can be actuated to block or weld a diluting solution tube adapted to be disposed therein.

14. (previously presented) A device for processing a blood concentrate product in accordance with Claim 11, which further comprises a second clamp valve to control the flow of processed

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blood concentrate product from the plurality of product bags to a ring bag via a tube connecting the product bags to the ring bag.

15. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1, in which the steps of oscillating the cassette and adding diluting solution occur at least partially at the same time.

16. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1, whereby the connecting step comprises connecting a plurality of blood product bags each containing a blood concentrate product to be processed; and whereby said step of adding a diluting solution includes adding diluting solution to each of the plurality of product bags.

17. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 16 whereby said step of adding a diluting solution includes flowing the diluting solution to each of the plurality of product bags through the multi-way connector.

18. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 16, whereby the step of transferring includes transferring the contents of each of the plurality of product bags to the ring bag.

19. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 18 whereby said step of transferring includes flowing the contents of each of the plurality of product bags to the ring bag through the multi-way connector.

20. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 which further comprises a step for removing a processed blood component from the ring bag after the subsequent centrifugation processing step.